from the middle of the former to the middle of the latter), the elytra with a common, rounded, smaller annulus on the apical declivity, the prothorax with an oblique stripe on each side anteriorly (as seen from above) and the whole of the flanks (a large spot in the middle excepted), the head around the eyes, and the base of the rostrum, thickly clothed with minute, fulvous or brownish-cinereous, hair-like scales, the under surface and legs sparsely set with slightly longer similarly-coloured scales. Head densely punctate; eyes very large, well separated in both sexes; rostrum very stout, curved, moderately long, finely punctured, smooth at the tip. Prothorax a little broader than long, gradually narrowing from the base, opaque, closely, minutely punctate, and sometimes obsoletely carinate towards the apex. Scutellum oblong, sulcate. Elytra cuneiform, foveato-striate, the foveæ decreasing in size towards the apex; the interstices convex, 1–4 for about two-thirds of their length set with scattered, small, smooth tubercles and then becoming flat on the apical declivity; the annulate portions of the surface depressed, the humeri rounded. Femora sharply unidentate. Pygidium broadly exposed beneath in ♂, very narrowly so in ♀.

Length 19–20, breadth $8\frac{1}{2}$–$8\frac{2}{3}$ millim. (♂ ♀.)

Hab. Costa Rica (*Mus. Dresden*); Ecuador, San Javier and Lita (*coll. Fry, in Mus. Brit.*).

Described from four specimens from Ecuador. Dr. Heller, of the Dresden Museum, has also sent me an example of the same species, labelled as from Costa Rica, for determination, the habitat of which seemed to me to be doubtful at the time, and the insect was therefore omitted from the enumeration of the Central-American *Cratosomini*. There is, however, no reason to think that a mistake had been made in labelling, *C. sextuberculatus* having a similar geographical distribution. *C. biannulatus* should follow *C. aspersus* in the arrangement of the Central-American forms.

X.—*New Species of Diploptera in the Collection of the British Museum.* By Geoffrey Meade-Waldo, B.A.

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Part III.

In the present paper are contained descriptions of some new species of the family Vespidæ from various localities.

The occurrence of two species of *Parapolybia* in the collection of Hymenoptera made by Escalera in S.W. Persia is of much interest, since it adds considerably to our knowledge of the distribution of the genus.

The measurements of length, as on previous occasions, have been taken from the front of the head to the apical margin of the second abdominal segment, unless special mention is made to the contrary. All the types are in the National Collection.

Eumenidæ, Westwood.

PTEROCHILUS, Klug.

Pterochilus korbi, Schulz.

Pterochilus korbi, Schulz, Hymenopteren-Studien, pp. 48–52 (1905).
Pterochilus aterrimus, E. Saunders, Trans. Ent. Soc. Lond. p. 403 (1905).

A comparison between the types of these two species proves them to be identical. The locality of capture for both is Biskra. *B. korbi* has priority of publication by a few months, although the descriptions of both were published in the same year.

Vespidæ, Latr.

Belonogaster buyssoni, sp. n.

B. pusillo similis, sed facie omnino ferrugineo, tarsisque nigris.

♀. Ferruginous; antennæ, mesonotum, and segments 2–6 of the abdomen blackish; tergites of segments 2, 3, 4 of abdomen with two whitish-yellow oval marks on the latero-apical margin, the marks on segment 2 being larger than those on segment 3, and the latter larger than those on segment 4. Femora obscure, tibiæ and tarsi black. Head and clypeus normal, the latter sharply pointed. Antennæ short and slender. Wings hyaline, somewhat cloudy towards the apex, and golden-yellow along the costa. Stigma golden-yellow. Abdomen with the petiole long and slender, longer than the thorax; abdominal segment 2 with a long petiole and widening gradually towards the posterior end. Pubescence on thorax short, thick, whitish yellow.

Total length 20 mm.

2 ♀.

Hab. Iganga Busoga, S. Nigeria (*J. J. Simpson*). Collected for the Entomological Research Committee (Tropical Africa), 29. iii. 1909.

This insect, which I have much pleasure in dedicating to M. R. du Buysson, of the Paris Museum, is very similar to *B. pusillus*, Kohl, in general appearance, but may be readily distinguished by the absence of yellow markings on the face and clypeus and the totally black tarsi.

MISCHOCYTTARUS, Sauss.

Mischocyttarus labiatus.

Zethus labiatus, F. Syst. Piez. 1804, p. 284. no. 6.
Polybia melanaria, Cam. Invert. Pacif. i.

Cameron's species, described from Belize, British Honduras, is a typical example of *M. labiatus*, F.

ICARIA, Sauss.

Icaria flavopicta, Smith.

Icaria flavopicta, Smith, Cat. Hym. Brit. Mus. vol. v. p. 99 (1857) (Borneo).
Icaria ornaticeps, Cam. Ann. & Mag. Nat. Hist. (7) vol. vi. p. 497 (Khasia Hills).

The yellow marks on the head and mesonotum, by which Cameron says that *I. ornaticeps* is easily known, are present in *I. flavopicta*. The type specimen from Borneo varies in no respect from specimens from the Khasia Hills, Burma, Tenasserim, and Sikkim in the National Collection.

Icaria conservator, Smith.

Icaria conservator, Smith, Journ. Proc. Linn. Soc., Zool. iv. Suppl. p. 130. no. 1 (1860).
Polybia limatula, Smith, Journ. Proc. Linn. Soc., Zool. vii. p. 43. no. 1 (1863).

I. conservator, described from Dory, New Guinea, is certainly the same species as that described three years later as *P. limatula* from Mysol, the type of which, preserved in the Oxford University Museum, has been compared with specimens of the former from Smith's own collection, now in the British Museum.

Icaria festina, Smith.

Icaria festina, Smith, Journ. Linn. Soc., Zool. viii. p. 90. no. 6 (1864).
Icaria zonata, Cam. Nov. Guinea, v. livr. i. p. 61.

Both specimens described are from New Guinea.

POLISTES, Latr.

Polistes tristis, sp. n.

Niger, fusco-ferrugineo variegatus, abdomine nigro; alis leviter infuscatis, cellula radiali fusca.

♀. Black; scape entirely and flagellum partially beneath fusco-ferruginous; mandibles, clypeus, cheeks, space behind the eyes, pronotum, scutellum, postscutellum, two longitudinal lines on median segment, the legs (with the exception of the coxæ and femora above) fusco-ferruginous. Two small marks at extreme apex of median segment and on apex of first abdominal tergite laterally pale yellow. Wings fusco-hyaline, distinctly golden along the costal area, radial cell fuscous. Clypeus pentagonal, gradually widening from base, widest part at base of mandibles, produced to a point at apex. Abdomen normal. Clypeus and thorax finely punctured, median segment coarsely transversely striate. The whole insect covered with a short thick silver pubescence.

Length 14 mm.

3 ♀.

Hab. Mombasa, E. Africa (*A. J. Cholmeley*).

Quite distinct from any known species in the almost totally black abdomen. Possibly the two yellow marks on the first abdominal tergite may be the remains of a yellow fascia; in one specimen there is no trace whatever of the yellow marks.

Polistes variabilis reginæ, var. nov.

Ferrugineus, flavo variegatus; pedibus unicoloribus.

♀. Pale ferruginous; pronotum along the front and hind margin, narrow transverse lines on the base of scutellum and postscutellum, a small ovoid spot on mesopleuræ, and two broad longitudinal marks on the posterior face of the median segment pale testaceous. First abdominal segment (except for small ferruginous mark on tergite) pale yellow; abdominal segment 2 with narrow transverse apical band, abdominal segments 3, 4, 5 with broad transverse apical bands pale yellow. Legs entirely pale ferruginous. The whole insect densely covered with a short golden pubescence. Wings fusco-hyaline, slightly golden along the costa.

Length 11 mm.

7 ♀.

Hab. Cooktown, N. Queensland (*D. Le Souef*).

A well-marked variety of *P. variabilis*, F., all the black markings of which are wanting. The pale testaceous markings are evidently the yellow markings of typical *variabilis* much reduced in intensity. The clypeus is ferruginous, not yellow as in *P. variabilis.*

Polistes phillipinensis, Sauss.

Polistes phillipinensis, Sauss. Ét. Fam. Vesp. vol. ii. p. 58.
Polistes nigrifrons, Cam. Ann. & Mag. Nat. Hist. (7) vol. vi. p. 412.

Cameron's species is from the Khasia Hills, according to his description. "Himalaya" is the MS. locality on the label. Dalla Torre gives "Japan" in Gen. Insect., Fam. Vespidæ, p. 71. *P. rugifrons* is a colour-variety of *P. phillipinensis,* probably the variety mentioned by Saussure as "Tout l'insecte plus ou moins rougeâtre." Two specimens, collected by Whitehead on Cape Engano, Luzon, and determined by the late Col. Bingham (Ann. & Mag. Nat. Hist. (6) vol. xvi. p. 444), belong to this variety. The median segment of Cameron's type is too mutilated for examination, but, as far as can be seen, the transverse striation is very deep.

Polistes tepidus, Fabr.

Polistes tepidus, Fabr. Syst. Entom. p. 366. no. 17 (1775).
Polistes malayanus, Cam. Nova Guinea, v. livr. i. p. 60 (1906).

A comparison with the type in the Banksian Collection makes it evident that *P. malayanus* from Manokwari, New Guinea, is typical *P. tepidus.*

Polistes flavobilineata.

Icaria flavobilineata, Cam. Journ. Straits Asiat. Soc. vol. xxxvii. p. 102 (1902).

Cameron's species, described from Borneo, is without doubt a *Polistes.* The first abdominal segment is of the normal shape for that genus. It comes very near to *P. manillensis,* Sauss., from the Philippines and Borneo. Both species have the median segment only indistinctly transversely striate on the posterior slope.

Polistes elegans, Smith.

Polistes elegans, Smith, Journ. Proc. Linn. Soc., Zool. iii. 1858, p. 169 (♀).
Polistes simulatus, Smith, Journ. Proc. Linn. Soc., Zool. iv. 1860, Suppl. p. 130.

P. elegans, described from Aru and Key Islands, is undoubtedly the same as *P. simulatus* from Batchian and Morty Island. Smith notes after his description of the latter that it may be an extreme variety.

Polistes actæon.

Polistes actæon, Hal. Trans. Linn. Soc. Lond. xvii. (3) p. 323 (1836).
Polistes limai, Ihering, Ann. Soc. Ent. Fr. vol. lxxii. p. 145 (1903).

A comparison between this species and the type of *P. actæon* proves them to be identical. Dalla Torre ('Catalogus Hymenopterum,' vol. ix. Vespidæ, p. 122) gives a reference to Latreille ('Encyclopédie Méthodique,' vol. x. p. 171, 1825) where no reference is made to *P. actæon,* and rightly cites Haliday as the author, though Latreille would have priority. In 'Genera Insectorum,' Fam. Vespidæ, p. 68 (1904), Latreille is cited as the author of *P. actæon,* evidently an attempt to correct the synonymy in the 'Catalogus.'

Polistes humilis, F.

Polistes humilis, F. Spec. Insect. i. p. 461. no. 20 (1781).
Polistes tasmaniensis, Sauss. Étud. Fam. Vespid. p. 66 (1853).

Specimens of *P. tasmaniensis* in the National Collection are certainly identical with *P. humilis,* F., the type of which is in the Banksian Collection (Fabricius, Spec. Insect. i. p. 461. no. 20, 1781), and not in Paris as stated by Saussure. I have not seen the type of *P. tasmaniensis*, which is in Paris.

Key to the Australian Species of Polistes.

A. Large species, 18–24 mm.
  a. Colour totally ferruginous: length 18 mm. *schach,* F.
  b. Colour yellow and black or ferruginous and black.
    a^2. Mesothorax black, with two parallel yellow marks on disc.
      a^3. Scutellum, postscutellum, median segment, and first abdominal segment black: length 18 mm. ...... *tepidus,* F.
      b^3. Scutellum, postscutellum, two lines on median segment, and first abdominal segment at apex yellow: length 21 mm. .... *picteti,* Sauss.
    b^2. Mesothorax ferruginous; median segment black: length 24 mm. .... *erythrinus,* Holmgr.

B. Small species, 11–15 mm.	
a. Antennæ entirely ferruginous.	
a^2. Median segment black.	
a^3. Abdominal segments 1–3 bordered with yellow; no red markings on abdominal segment 2: length 13 mm.	*tricolor*, Sauss.
b^3. Abdomen entirely ferruginous; abdominal segment 1 with a narrow apical yellow fascia: length 12 mm.	*humilis*, F. (*tasmaniensis*, Sauss.).
b^2. Median segment with two parallel yellow lines on posterior surface.	
a^2. Abdominal segments 1, 3 with transverse yellow apical bands.	
a^3. Abdominal segments 1, 2 black at base: length 12 mm.	*variabilis*, var. *synœcus*, Sauss.
b^3. Abdominal segments 1, 2 reddish brown: length 14 mm.	*bernardii*, Le Guill.
b^2. Abdominal segments 1–5 with transverse yellow apical bands; yellow thoracic markings indistinct: length 11 mm.	*variabilis*, var. *reginæ*, M.-Waldo.
b. Antennæ black above, ferruginous beneath. Median segment with two parallel yellow lines on posterior surface; abdominal segments 1, 3, 4 bordered with yellow: length 11½ mm.	*variabilis*, F.

The length given is from the front of the head to the apex of the second abdominal segment. In two species (*P. erythrinus* and *P. bernardii*), of which specimens have not been available for examination, the length as given in the description has been quoted. In the case of *P. erythrinus* the total length (24 mm.) has evidently been given, and this is probably the case with *P. synœcus*.

No specimen of *P. picteti* from Australia was available, the whole series in the National Collection coming from Ceram, Amboyna, and Celebes.

VESPA, Linn.

Vespa wilemani, sp. n.

Caput thoraxque fusco-ferruginei, valde hirsuti; abdomen nigrum, flavo variegatum, pedibus flavis, alis aureis.

♀. Head and thorax dark ferruginous; mandibles, clypeus, and interantennal space yellow. Abdomen black; abdominal segment 1 marked with ferruginous at base, and with a narrow apical yellow fascia; abdominal segments 2 and 3 with narrow yellow fasciæ on tergites and broad yellow fasciæ on sternites; abdominal segment 4 broadly banded with yellow on apical margin of both tergite and sternite. Legs entirely dark orange-yellow. Wings golden hyaline, darkest along the costa.

Head as broad as thorax, moderately dilated behind the eyes, the transverse furrow on pronotum very distinct. Clypeus finely punctured, the anterior angles bluntly rounded. Thorax broad and short, abdomen broadly truncate at base. Whole insect covered with a long, dense, black pubescence.

Length 17 mm.

1 ♀.

Hab. Formosa (*A. E. Wileman*).

M. R. du Buysson, who has seen the insect, considers it to be very closely allied to *V. variabilis,* du Buyss., of which species the coloration is very variable.

Vespa mandarinia, Smith.

Vespa mandarinia, Smith, Trans. Entom. Soc. Lond. ii. p. 38, t. viii. fig. 1 (1852) (Japan).
Vespa magnifica, var. *latilineata,* Cam., MS.

SYNŒCA, Sauss.

There appears to be some difference of opinion as to the position of the opening in the nests of these wasps.

Du Buysson, in his admirable "Monographie des Vespides appartenant aux genres *Apoica* et *Synœca*" (Soc. Ent. France, vol. lxxv. (1906) p. 348), says that Saussure and Möbius have both represented the nest as having the opening at the lower end, but that it is in reality at the top. The nests figured were in each case those of *Synœca surinama,* L. The Rev. G. C. Hungerford Pollen, S.J., who has spent some years in British Guiana, has made some most interesting observations on the habits of this insect, and has been good enough to allow me to make use of them.

It will be noticed that all nests observed by Mr. Pollen had their solitary opening at the lower end.

Other interesting observations were made on the habits of a Chalcid fly (*Epitelia aculeata,* Walker), which was observed to oviposit in the nests, and on the manner in which the whole colony of *Synœca* would unite in saving their home from destruction by the tropical rain. Some of these observations are best quoted verbatim from Mr. Pollen's notes:—

"About Christmas 1908 I was on the N.W. coast at the mouth of the Essequibo River, British Guiana, about 35 miles from Georgetown. There is a long stretch of sand with shrub and trees (the latter chiefly Courida), extending from Suddie Stelling to the mouth of the Pomeroon River. A path runs parallel to the coast, and at 20 to 50 feet from the highest tide-line. The *Synœca* appears to favour chiefly a spot where there is some clay-mud, supporting a fairly dense curtain of shrubs, so that they are protected both from the breeze, which blows straight from the sea practically all the year, and also from the sun. The nests, with the characteristic horizontal 'fluting,' are very numerous, but confined to a small locality. They are on a level with the eye, 4 to 5 feet from the ground, where the trunks or branches are about 3 to 4 inches diameter. All the nests seen by me were on the side of the stem furthest from the sea and protected from the wind, on a sloping part of the tree, so that the stem above them is a protection from direct rain. As will be noticed later, the wasp still has to deal with rain running down the stem. *The entrance is always at the lower end*" *.

Here follows a detailed account of the structure of the nest, into which it is unnecessary to enter; but Mr. Pollen proceeds to give an account of one individual colony which he kept under observation. The nest had become soaked from a heavy deluge of rain.

"The number of the colony appeared to be about twenty, as I presume all hands were called on deck to 'man the pumps.' Shortly after my arrival, during a heavy rainfall, a stream of water ran down the trunk of the tree and soaked into the tent-wall. Immediately there was an angry buzzing, and some twenty wasps climbed out of the nest and began sucking up the moisture with their mouths, moving their antennæ and mandibles rapidly. As each one in succession drank up as much moisture as it found convenient, it turned to the side of the tent, and took up a position so that it could look down, clear of the nest, towards the ground. Then, straightening its second and third pair of legs, it opened its mandibles as wide as possible, and raised its antennæ, which waved about slowly but irregularly, while the whole body trembled with the evident effort of bringing up all the water, which fell from the mouth in two or three big drops. From the size of these drops and the slowness with which they detached themselves from the mouth I surmise that the water had become rather viscous; but I was unable to approach near enough to catch any of the drops. Often when one or two drops had fallen the third was too long in developing in the mouth. Then there was more trembling and effort, and the front pair of legs were used to brush the drop off the mandibles. There were also frequent visits paid to the interior, so that the entrance was in use almost the whole time, thus making it impossible to count accurately."

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* The italics are mine.—G. M-W.

Then follows an account of the parasite and its method of oviposition.

"The whole time of my observation, about two hours, there were four or five *Epitelia aculeata* walking about on the outside of the tent. Every now and then one would get close to the base and pierce it with its ovipositor. I timed one for five or six egg-layings, and should give an average of two or three minutes' interval between the eggs. It was, however, very difficult to make sure that I was keeping my eye on the same one, as their movements were very quick, and often two or three would take a short flight of a foot or two from the nest at the same time. The parasites were evidently in fear of their hosts, constantly shifting their position, by sideward and even backward running, so as always to present their faces to the wasps. . . . The length of my observation was chiefly due to my wish to detect any host objecting to one of what he ought to regard as most unwelcome guests; but I could not see the slightest sign of notice on the part of the *Synœca*. The excitement of the *Epitelia* was apparently a case of 'the wicked fleeing when no man pursueth.'"

POLYBIA, Lepel.

Polybia rejecta, F.

Polybia rejecta, F. Suppl. Ent. Syst. p. 264 (1798) (Cayenne).
Polybia bicolor, Sm. Cat. Hym. Brit. Mus. vol. v. p. 131 (1857) (Brazil).
Polybia brunnea, Curt. Trans. Linn. Soc. Lond. vol. xix. pl. i. p. 256 (1844) (Brazil).
Polybia vicina, Sauss. Étud. fam. Vesp. vol. ii. p. 189, pl. xxiv. fig. 7 (1853) (Brazil).

P. brunnea, Curtis, described first as *Myrapetra brunnea*, was one of the species which Saussure had not seen when engaged on his 'Études sur les Vespides.'

Polybia sylveiræ, Sauss.

Polybia sylveiræ, Sauss. Ét. fam. Vesp. vol. ii. p. 171, pl. vi. fig. 2 (1853) (Brazil).
Polybia enxuy, Smith, Trans. Ent. Soc. Lond. (3) i. 6, p. 511 (1863).

Smith's species appears as *P. enxius* in Dalla Torre, 'Catalogus Hymenopterum,' vol. ix. Vespidæ, p. 163. The type of *P. enxuy* bears the label in his handwriting, the specific name being the vernacular term for the species in South America (*vide* Trans. Ent. Soc. Lond. (3) i. 6, p. 504).

Polybia bifasciata, Sauss.

Polybia bifasciata, Sauss. Étud. fam. Vesp. ii. p. 172. no. 7 (1853).
Polybia quadricincta, Sauss. Étud. fam. Vesp. ii. p. 173. no. 8 (1853).

A specimen of *P. bifasciata* determined by Ducke is certainly identical with *P. quadricincta*, Sm., with the type of which it has been compared. Ducke has doubtless seen the type of *P. bifasciata* in the Paris Museum.

Polybia (*Parapolybia*) *sumatrensis*, Sauss.

Polybia (*Parapolybia*) *sumatrensis*, Sauss. Rev. et Mag. Zool. (2) vii. p. 374 (1855).
Icaria sulciscutis, Cam. Proc. Zool. Soc. Lond. vol. ii. p. 30 (1901).
Icaria rubriscutis, Cam. MS.

Dr. Schulz, in 'Spolia Hymenopterologica,' places *Icaria sulciscutis*, Cam., described from Singapore, in the right genus.

There can be no doubt that *P. sumatrensis*, Sauss., the type of which is in the British Museum, and with which Cameron's species have been carefully compared, is the same species.

Polybia (*Parapolybia*) *orientalis*, Sauss.

Polybia (*Parapolybia*) *orientalis*, Sauss. Mon. Guêp. Soc. vol. ii. p. 208 (1853).
Icaria fuscipennis, Cam. Ann. & Mag. Nat. Hist. (7) vol. vi. p. 501 (1900).

I. fuscipennis, Cam., from the Khasia Hills, is certainly nothing more than a colour-variety of *P. orientalis*, from which species it differs (*a*) by the absence of the longitudinal yellow stripes on the mesonotum, (*b*) the yellow at the base of abdominal segments 3 and 4 forms a continuous band both dorsally and ventrally, and is not broken dorsally as in *P. orientalis*. The general ground-colour also is more chocolate-brown than in that species, and the antennæ darker.

Polybia (*Parapolybia*) *persica*, sp. n.

♀. Nigra, pallide flavo variegata; mesothorace unicolori, abdominis segmentis flavis apice fasciatis; petiolo gracillimo.

Black; the mandibles, the clypeus apically and laterally, three small ovoid spots on the front (the two lower situated between the base of the antennæ), the inner margin of the eyes (including the sinus), the space behind the eyes, the pronotum in front, and a narrow line along the posterior margin to the tegulæ, the tegulæ, a spot on the mesopleuræ, two small spots on the scutellum, and two lines on the posterior face of the median segment, pale yellow. Abdomen with the petiole along the basal lateral half, two minute marks at the base of the second segment, and the apical margin of all the segments pale yellow. Legs: the anterior pair with femora at the apex, the tibiæ and tarsi, intermediate pair with coxæ beneath, femora and tibiæ apically, and tarsi, posterior pair with femora and tibiæ at apex, and tarsi (except the first joint at the base), pale yellow. Antennæ pale ferruginous, the scape black dorsally. Wings hyaline, slightly fuscous in the radial cell.

Head as broad as thorax at the tegulæ, genæ very short. Prothorax truncate anteriorly, widening towards the tegulæ. Petiole long and slender, about as long as head and thorax combined, rather broader along the apical half; second abdominal segment cup-shaped, gradually widening towards the apical margin.

Clypeus with a few minute punctures and sparsely fringed with white hairs; thorax and abdomen impunctate except for a fine transverse striation on the apex of the median segment. A short dense grey pubescence on the thorax.

Length 10 mm.

Hab. Kuh Sefid, S.W. Persia (*Escalera*); 4 ♀.

The slender build of this species separates it from any described Asiatic *Polybia*. The petiole is longer and more slender, and the widening of the second abdominal segment more gradual. Most nearly allied to *P. orientalis*, Sauss., and *P. sumatrensis*, Sauss.

Polybia (*Parapolybia*) *escaleræ*, sp. n.

♀. Precedenti similis, sed omnino pallidior; mesothorace duabus lineis pallide flavis, abdominis segmentis late flavo-fasciatis.

Black; the scape beneath, the mandibles, the clypeus (except for a faint median longitudinal line), a large ovoid mark between the antennæ, the inner margin and sinus of the eyes, the space behind the eyes, and two small marks on the vertex pale yellow. Thorax black; the pronotum in front and along the posterior margin to the tegulæ, the tegulæ, two parallel lines on the disc of the mesonotum, the greater part of the mesopleuræ, basal portion of scutellum, the postscutellum, and a mark roughly V-shaped on each side of the posterior face of the median segment, pale yellow. Abdomen black; petiole at the base, apex, and laterally, abdominal segment 2 at base and with broad apical fascia, following segments with apical fasciæ, pale yellow.

Legs chiefly pale yellow, the anterior femora and intermediate femora and tibiæ streaked with black, first joint of posterior tarsi marked with black.

Antennæ ferruginous, scape darker above.

Wings clear hyaline, slightly fuscous in radial cell.

Head about as broad as thorax, genæ very short.

Prothorax with the posterior margins distinctly raised and rounded. Petiole slender, of almost uniform width, about as long as thorax; second abdominal segment cup-shaped, narrow, gradually widening to apex.

Length 10 mm.

Hab. Dupulán Baktiari, S.W. Persia (*Escalera*); 1 ♀.

Distinct from *P. persica* by the shorter petiole and differently shaped second abdominal segment.

In *P. persica* the second abdominal segment is as broad at the apex as its entire length, in *P. escaleræ* it is one and a quarter times as long as broad at the apex, and has an altogether more slender appearance.

The whole insect has a paler appearance, and is easily distinguishable at a glance, though, were it not for a structural difference, it might be considered a variety.

Polybia (*Parapolybia*) *melaina*, sp. n.

♀. Nigra; clypeo facieque sparse testaceo-variegatis, alis fuscis.

Black; two small spots at the apex of the clypeus and two marks on the inner orbits of eyes below the sinus pale testaceous.

Wings fuscous.

Head broader than thorax, petiole long and slender, broader along apical half, the whole about as long as the thorax. Second abdominal segment cup-shaped, as broad as the thorax at the tegulæ, the width at apex about equal to the length. The whole insect shining, impunctate.

Length 9 mm.

1 ♀.

♂. Differs from the female in the following respects:—Clypeus totally, except for a median longitudinal streak, almost reaching to the apex, mandibles, the inner margin of the eyes (including the lower portion of the sinus), the intermediate coxæ beneath, and the second abdominal sternite pale testaceous.

Hab. Between Salt Lake and Wawamba, near Mount Ruwenzori, Uganda (*Scott Elliot*).

The only other known African species of *Polybia* is *P. tabida*, F., the type of which is in the Banksian Collection.

MEGACANTHOPUS, Ducke.

Megacanthopus pallidipectus.

Polybia pallidipectus, Smith, Cat. Hymen. Brit. Mus. v. p. 128. no. 36 (1857).

Type in British Museum.

Megacanthopus tapuya.

Polybia tapuya, Schulz, Hymen. Stud. p. 133 (Amazons).

Type in British Museum.

Megacanthopus flavitarsis.

Polybia flavitarsis, Sauss. Étud. fam. Vespid. ii. p. 199 (1853) (California).

Type in British Museum.

Megacanthopus cubensis.

Polybia cubensis, Sauss. Étud. fam. Vespid. ii. p. 202 (1853).

Type in Paris Museum.

These four species are all referable to Ducke's genus *Megacanthopus*.

NECTARINA, Shuck.

Nectarina amazonica.

Chartergus amazonicus, Cam. Zeitschr. Hymenop. vi. p. 380 (Amazonia).

Nectarina lecheguana.

Nectarina lecheguana, Latr. Mémoires du Muséum d'Histoire Naturelle, tome xi. p. 317, t. xii. pl. xii. fig. 13 (1824).
Chartergus centralis, Cam.

Nectarina azteca.

Nectarina azteca, Sauss. Revue et Magazin de Zoologie, ix. p. 280 (1857) (Mexico).
Chartergus mexicanus, Cam. Invert. Pacif. i. p. 154 (Acapulco, Mexico).

Nectarina cameroni, nom. nov.

Chartergus aztecus, Cam. Invert. Pacif. i. p. 155 (Mexico).

This species has to be renamed, as the name *azteca* already occurs in the genus.

The four species described by Cameron as *Chartergus* are thus all referable to *Nectarina* ; the types are in the British Museum. It is quite possible that *N. amazonica* and *N. cameroni* belong to known species ; but as the types are the only specimens, and in bad condition, it has been thought advisable to let them stand as distinct species.

Masaridæ, Latr.

A very fine collection of these insects, usually taken so sparingly, has recently been added to the collection. They were collected in the Mogador district of S.W. Morocco by Señor Manuel de la Escalera, and presented to the Museum by Mr. R. E. Turner. They are worth recording as a whole, since the locality is an interesting one.

There do not appear to be any new species, although the specimens of *Ceramius fonscolombei* seem almost worthy of subspecific rank.

CERAMIUS, Latr.

1. *lusitanicus,* Klug.—Mogador, xii. 1906 (*Escalera*). 8 ♀ ♀, 7 ♂ ♂.

2. *spiricornis,* Sauss.—Mogador, xii. 1906; El Kurimat, v. 1907 (*Escalera*). 9 ♀ ♀, 9 ♂ ♂.

3. *fonscolombei,* Latr.—Marrakesh, iv. 1907 (*Escalera*). 14 ♀ ♀, 12 ♂ ♂.

In the majority of specimens the second abdominal segment is almost entirely ferruginous red, though in some specimens the red markings are more reduced than in others.

JUGURTHIA, Sauss.

1. *oraniensis,* Lepel.—Marrakesh, iv. 1907; Amis (*Escalera*). 13 ♀♀, 11 ♂♂.
2. *numida,* Sauss.—Aglii, Amis (*Escalera*). 2 ♀, 1 ♂.

QUARTINIA, Grib.

1. *major,* Kohl.—Marrakesh, iv. 1907 (*Escalera*). 2 ♀, 1 ♂.
2. *dilecta,* Grib.—Mogador, xii. 1906 (*Escalera*). 1 ♀, 1 ♂.

MASARIS, F.

1. *vespiformis,* F.—Marrakesh, iv. 1907 (*Escalera*). 17 ♀♀, 14 ♂♂.

CELONITES, Latr.

1. *abbreviatus,* Vill.—Amis (*Escalera*). 1 ♀, 1 ♂.
2. *fischeri,* Spin.—Marrakesh, iv. 1907 (*Escalera*). 6 ♀♀, 3 ♂♂.

XI.—*Three new South-American Mammals.*

By OLDFIELD THOMAS.

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Molossops mastivus, sp. n.

Allied to *M. cerastes,* but larger.

Size largest of the genus. Fur very close and velvety, hairs of back barely over 2 mm. in length. Structure of ears and distribution of fur as in *M. cerastes.* General colour above dark chocolate-brown, rather paler below.

Skull like that of *M. cerastes,* but decidedly larger; ridges and crests much more developed, the "helmet" formed by the junction of the sagittal and lambdoid crests very prominent. Muzzle rather narrower in proportion to the length of the skull, and not so markedly flattened. Brain-case also less flattened above. Anteorbital ridges very heavy. Rami of lower jaw very short and thick, their lower profile convex from end to end.